



AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 (currently amended). A dielectric ceramic comprising a plurality of crystal grains with triple points located between crystal grains,

wherein the crystal grains comprise perovskite compound grains composed of a perovskite compound represented by ABO_3 (where A is Ba and Ca, and optionally Sr; and B is Ti and optionally at least one of Zr and Hf) and crystal oxide grains composed of a crystal oxide containing at least Ba, ~~Ti and~~ Ti and Si, and

about 80% or more of the number of the triple points have a cross-sectional area of about 8 nm^2 or less.

2 (original). The dielectric ceramic according to Claim 1, wherein the Ca is about 1 to 20 mole percent of the A element of the ABO_3 perovskite compound .

3 (original). The dielectric ceramic according to Claim 2, further comprising an oxide containing R and M, where R is at least one selected from the group consisting of La, Ce, Pr, Nd, Sm, Eu, Gd, Tb, Dy, Ho, Er, Tm, Yb, Lu and Y, and M is at least one selected from the group consisting of Mn, Ni, Co, Fe, Cr, Cu, Mg, Al, V, Mo and W,

wherein the contents of R and M in the form of an element are about 0.01 to 1.5 moles and about 0.1 to 2 moles, respectively, with respect to 100 moles of the ABO_3 .

4 (original). The dielectric ceramic according to Claim 3, wherein the crystal oxide consists of Ba, Ti, Si, O and optionally Ni.

5 (original). The dielectric ceramic according to Claim 1, further comprising an oxide containing R and M, where R is at least one selected from the group consisting of La, Ce, Pr, Nd, Sm, Eu, Gd, Tb, Dy, Ho, Er, Tm, Yb, Lu and Y, and M is at least one selected from the group consisting of Mn, Ni, Co, Fe, Cr, Cu, Mg, Al, V, Mo and W,

wherein the contents of R and M in the form of an element are about 0.01 to 1.5 moles and about 0.1 to 2 moles, respectively, with respect to 100 moles of the ABO_3 .

6 (original). The dielectric ceramic according to Claim 5, wherein the crystal oxide consists of Ba, Ti, Si, O and optionally Ni.

7 (original). The dielectric ceramic according to Claim 1, wherein the crystal oxide consists of Ba, Ti, Si, O and optionally Ni.

8 (original). A method for manufacturing the dielectric ceramic according to Claim 1, the method comprising :

providing a mixture of (a) a perovskite compound represented by ABO_3 (where A is Ba and Ca, and optionally Sr; and B is Ti and optionally at least one of Zr and Hf); and (b) a crystal oxide containing at least Ba, Ti and Si; and firing the mixture.

9 (original). The method for manufacturing a dielectric ceramic according to Claim 8, wherein the mixture further comprises an oxide of R

and M, where R is at least one selected from the group consisting of La, Ce, Pr, Nd, Sm, Eu, Gd, Tb, Dy, Ho, Er, Tm, Yb, Lu and Y) and M is at least one selected from the group consisting of Mn, Ni, Co, Fe, Cr, Cu, Mg, Al, V, Mo and W.

10 (original). The method for manufacturing a dielectric ceramic according to Claim 9, wherein the mixture further comprises a firing auxiliary agent.

11 (original). The method for manufacturing a dielectric ceramic according to Claim 8, wherein the mixture further comprises a firing auxiliary agent.

12 (original). A multilayer ceramic capacitor comprising:
a laminate containing a plurality of dielectric ceramic layers laminated to each other and a plurality of internal electrodes each of which is disposed along a different interface between a pair of dielectric ceramic layers and which are overlapped with each other in a lamination direction; and
a pair of external electrodes on external surfaces of the laminate electrically connected to different internal electrodes ;
wherein said plurality of dielectric ceramic layers comprises the dielectric ceramic according to Claim 1 .

13 (original). The multilayer ceramic capacitor according to Claim 12, wherein the internal electrodes comprise a base metal.

14 (original). The multilayer ceramic capacitor according to Claim 13, wherein the external electrodes comprise a base metal.

15 (original). A multilayer ceramic capacitor comprising:

a laminate containing a plurality of dielectric ceramic layers laminated to each other and a plurality of internal electrodes each of which is disposed along a different interface between a pair of dielectric ceramic layers and which are overlapped with each other in a lamination direction; and

a pair of external electrodes on external surfaces of the laminate electrically connected to different internal electrodes ;

wherein said plurality of dielectric ceramic layers comprises the dielectric ceramic according to Claim 2.

16 (original). The multilayer ceramic capacitor according to Claim 15, wherein the internal electrodes comprise a base metal.

17 (original). The multilayer ceramic capacitor according to Claim 16, wherein the external electrodes comprise a base metal.

18 (original). A multilayer ceramic capacitor comprising:

a laminate containing a plurality of dielectric ceramic layers laminated to each other and a plurality of internal electrodes each of which is disposed along a different interface between a pair of dielectric ceramic layers and which are overlapped with each other in a lamination direction; and

a pair of external electrodes on external surfaces of the laminate electrically connected to different internal electrodes ;

wherein said plurality of dielectric ceramic layers comprises the dielectric ceramic according to Claim 3.

19 (original). The multilayer ceramic capacitor according to Claim 18, wherein the internal electrodes comprise a base metal.

20 (original). The multilayer ceramic capacitor according to Claim 19, wherein the external electrodes comprise a base metal.